ハーレクインコミックス・キララ

Trail of Love

赤い髪は誘惑のしるし

森 素子
Mori Motoko

アマンダ・ブラウニング
Amanda Browning

ハーレクイン

SIR ENDA-COTT,
I CAME HERE TODAY BECAUSE I WANTED TO CONFIRM SOMETHING WITH YOU.
PLEASE TELL ME THAT
I...
I AM NOT "KIMBERLEY ENDACOTT."

赤い髪は
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Love
森 MORI 素子 MOTOKO
原作／アマンダ・ブラウニング
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KAY SARAH JANE NAPIER
KAY
SO YOU...
UMM...
KAY... YOU CAME HERE WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT TODAY AND BARGED INTO MY OFFICE SO THAT I COULD TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE NOT MY MISSING GRAND-DAUGHTER, KIMBERLEY, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED YEARS AGO?
YES, THAT'S CORRECT.
I knew I was acting foolish...
But I had to confirm.
A FEW MONTHS AGO, MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY
AND WHILE I WAS ORGANIZING HER THINGS, I FOUND HER DIARY

"K" CAME TODAY
SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL
THAT WAS THE SAME DAY THAT KIMBERLEY WAS KIDNAPPED.
YES,
CAME...?
THAT'S WHAT SHE WROTE
THERE, INSIDE THE DIARY, SHE STATED THAT I "CAME" TO HER.
THAT MY MOTHER
I NEEDED TO DOUBLE CHECK,
I KNOW IT'S NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY BUT...
ON TOP OF THAT, THE DAY THAT MY FATHER LEFT WAS THE DAY THE RANSOM WAS PAID AND COLLECTED
CHARLES!
I HEARD A RED-HEAD CAME BY! WHY DID YOU EVEN MEET...
SLAM
Emily! When's the maintenance worker coming to fix the elevator?!
I'm sorry, they should be here soon.
?
WAS NOT A KIDNAPPER...

Who is this...!?
GET OUT OF HERE!!
G...
RIGHT NOW!!

AN ADMIRABLE STRAWBERRY BLONDE.
IS THAT YOUR TICKET INTO THE ENDACOTT FAMILY?!
BEN! YOU'RE BEING RUDE
I APOLOGIZE HE IS THIS BANK'S JOINT-MANAGER, BEN RADFORD
K...KAY NAPIER.
I'M A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT FOR WINTERBOURNE & STONELY

GLARE
I'M NOT SHAKING YOUR HAND.
HOW MANY SIMILAR WOMEN DO YOU THINK CAME HERE OR THE ENDACOTT MANSION?
DIRTY FORTUNE HUNTERS
BEN!
FOR THE FORTUNE!?
THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION!
THEY ALL SAY THAT.

KAY. I APOLOGIZE FOR HIS RUDENESS.
STOP IT BEN.
SHE CAME HERE TO CONFIRM THAT SHE IS NOT KIMBERLEY ENDACOTT.
BUT I DOUBT YOU ARE KIMBERLEY.
HA..
WE EXPERIENCED A CRUEL INCIDENT AND MET MANY "KIMBERLEY"S AFTERWARDS..
IT TORE OUR HEARTS APART EVERY TIME...
BUT THEY WERE ALL NOT KIMBERLEY
I WAS ONLY THINKING OF MYSELF.
I'M VERY SORRY.
UM... I'M REALLY SORRY.
I... WHAT HAVE I DONE..
OH..
SIR ENDA-COTT...!

KAY,
I WILL BE PRAYING THAT YOUR CONCERNS ARE ADDRESSED
THANK YOU.
What a good man...!
I'LL WALK YOU OUT.
EXCUSE ME.
I'M SORRY FOR TAKING YOUR TIME.
I WON'T BE RELIEVED UNLESS I SEE YOU WALKING OUT

CLOSE
NO ONE HAS EVER USED THAT TRICK, "TELL ME THAT I'M NOT KIMBERLEY."
CHARLES PROBABLY WILL NOT FORGET YOU.
GRRR
YOU SEEM MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE OTHER FAKES
GREAT TACTIC...
WHAT?

DING
I JUST WANT TO KNOW FOR SURE THAT I'M NOT KIMBERLEY!
ENOUGH'S ENOUGH!!
BUT FORGET IT.
IT WAS MY MISUNDER-STANDING
B-E-E-P
HUH?
KYAAH
RRRR
That odd phone call and letter must be...
some kind of mistake.

What is...
this feeling...!

As if I was electrocuted...!
YOU...
FEEL IT TOO?
WHAT?
THIS UNBELIEV-ABLE...
MAGIC
.....

No way...!

I need to...
Push...
push him away.
My mind...
RUSTLE
is getting further...
TICHIEN

OH
RELEASE
WHO...
ARE YOU?
ARE YOU SOME KIND OF WITCH?
IF YOU THINK SO... SHOULDN'T YOU HURRY UP AND LET ME GO?

DON'T EVER...
SHOW UP IN FRONT OF US AGAIN!
I'LL MAKE SURE NOT TO
P-O-P
IT'S MOVING!
Whine
CLATTER
Forever!
GOOD BYE, MR.RADFORD.

Red hair...!
Red...
To react to a kiss from such a rude man
It was like there was someone else inside of me....

It felt like
my whole body was melting...
CLENCH!
No, just forget it.
I have Lance.
There's no burning passion with Lance but I should be able to live peacefully...
A steady life
That's what I need.

But I was worried...
I went to the bank on a whim and questioned Charles Endacott.
It wasn't like me to be so rash today...
My mother's odd diary entry.
UM... MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY.
A week later, that phone call...
Plus, the letter that was delivered saying, "Get the money ready," with a newspaper clipping of Kimberley Endacott's kidnapping.
DID YOU SEE THE LETTER?
IS JEAN THERE?

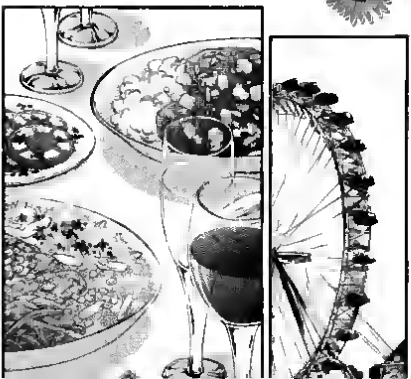
I'LL REPORT YOU TO THE POLICE IF YOU CALL AGAIN!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
Get the money ready
THE LETTER?
That letter!!
CLICK
But.
Of course I'm an idiot for thinking that there's a connection between the Endacott kidnapping and myself.
The diary entry that was written, "K came," on the day of Kimberley Endacott's kidnapping.
A mysterious letter and phone call.
I got anxious and impulsively sought out Sir Endacott...

I am Kay Sarah Jane Napier.
Daughter of Jean Napier.
was a kidnapper.
There is no way that gentle hard-working mother
Just forget about today.
Get back to your regular life, Kay!

I FEEL THAT THE COMPANY SHOULD GET RID OF THAT PROPERTY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
Winterbourne & Stonely
I WONDER IF THE BANK WILL HELP US OUT.
THANK YOU, SIR.
I'LL TRY GIVING THEM A CALL
HELLO, THIS IS WINTERBOURNE & STONELY
NAPIER SPEAKING
RING RING
CLICK

SIR CHARLES!?
IS THIS KAY?
IT'S ME, CHARLES ENDACOTT
I'M DOING WELL.
THANK YOU FOR THINKING ABOUT ME.
I WAS SURPRISED BY YOUR VISIT LAST WEEK, AND I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU WERE DOING.
NOT EVEN, I'M SORRY FOR ACTING SO IMPULSIVELY—
ULTIMATELY, I COULDN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.
I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORIES OF GROWING UP.
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO LUNCH?

MY LUNCH BREAK IS AT 12PM FOR AN HOUR.
I'LL SEND A RIDE.
I don't have any close relatives.
My father Ronnie left the house when I was a baby.
If I had a grandfather, I wonder if he'd be like him...



SIR CHARLES.

SO YOU WERE RAISED BY A SINGLE MOTHER?
YES MY FATHER DISAPPEARED SOON AFTER I WAS BORN..
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I WAS UNFORTUNATE.
MY MOTHER WAS VERY NICE PERSON.
SHE RAISED YOU WELL.
A GREAT MOTHER.
YES.
That's right.
Jean Napier was the world's best mother.
And for me to think that she would kidnap...
What an ungrateful daughter.

This voice...!
WELL, WELL...
YOU LOOK FAMILIAR.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO NEVER SHOW UP AGAIN?
BEN!
I'M THE ONE WHO INVITED KAY.
CHARLES.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO GET HURT.

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT CHARLES!
YOU SEEM AWFULLY FAMILIAR WITH HIM.
EXCUSE ME, CHARLES
I DON'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU SO I WILL BE OVER THERE.
LEANS
BATHING
MISS NAPIER...

WHISPER
I WILL WELCOME YOU ON ANOTHER OCCASION.
SHUDDER
EXCUSE ME THEN
Hey Ben.
Hey Rogers, can I join you?

I'm afraid of him...
But I'm more afraid
of my unknown self...!
My body heating up like it's on fire..
Those hands, that chest..
Those lips...!
KAY

YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME, ARE YOU?
NO, UM...
YOU'RE ACTING A BIT ODD TODAY.
WHAT?
IT'S NOT THAT, LANCE
Wow, I'm out with Lance,
and all I'm thinking about is Ben.
SO LIKE I WAS SAYING, MY MOTHER SUGGESTS THAT OUR NEW HOME NOT TO BE IN MAYFAIR.
DIDN'T SHE SAY NOT IN LAMBETH EITHER, LAST TIME?
WHERE WOULD YOUR MOTHER LIKE US TO LIVE?
About his mother again...!
Irritated!

DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT...
YOU'RE REALLY WEIRD TODAY.
MOTHER'S ONLY THINKING ABOUT THE BEST FOR US...
I UNDERSTAND. I'M SORRY
His infatuation with his mother didn't just start now.
Lance is also an accountant. Punctual and reserved.
People say we're meant for each other.
I always thought so too but...
Stop
Stop thinking about him..!

I'm tired
What a boring date.
Sigh
It was never a burning romance.
But still, I thought I'd spend my life with him.
Just until last week...
Click Click
Gasp
FOR JUST BEING BACK FROM A DATE, YOU LOOK AWFULLY DOWN

BEN... RADFORD...!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I TOLD YOU I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU
TALKING IN THE HALL-WAY AT NIGHT IS A NUISANCE TO YOUR NEIGHBORS.
CAN YOU LET ME IN?

I'm afraid,
but when I stand next to him,
I feel dizzy...
I'm afraid of this person
GO AHEAD
IT'S A NICE ROOM
DID COME OVER TO FLATTER ME WITH WORDS YOU DON'T MEAN?
OF COURSE NOT
I CAME WITH AN ULTIMATUM.

WHAT!?
IF YOU CONTINUE TO SNOOP AROUND THE ENDACOTT FAMILY,
I'M SERIOUS. THEY ARE LIKE FAMILY TO ME.
I WILL DESTROY YOU!
I WON'T LET YOU HURT THEM.

IF HE FINDS OUT YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A SWINDLER, HE WOULD PROBABLY RECONSIDER YOUR EMPLOYMENT.
YOUR EMPLOYER, MATTHEW WINTER-BOURNE, AND MY FATHER WERE TOGETHER IN THE ARMY.
WHAT A MAN!
WHAT...!? HOW CAN YOU THREATEN ME LIKE THAT?
This person
is serious
.....
WHEN I SAY I'LL DO SOMETHING, I WILL.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU TELL ME, I WILL GET RID OF YOU.
I HAVE A SUGGESTION
WAIT...

WHAT!?
THAT I'M NOT KIMBERLEY ENDACOTT.
PROVE TO ME
THAT'S WHY
IN ONE SENSE, OUR GOALS ARE SIMILAR.
FIND PROOF FOR ME THAT I AM NOT KIMBERLEY, BEN RADFORD
I ALSO BELIEVE THAT I'M NOT KIM-BERLEY.
YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM PRETENDING TO BE KIMBERLEY TO GET THE ENDACOTT FAMILY FORTUNE.

INVESTIGATE YOUR ROOTS ..?
YES
I ALREADY STARTED LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF BLOOD RELATION, BUT...
WHAT?
IT'S NOTHING.
THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE LISTS ALNWICK IN NORTH ENGLAND..
ALNWICK!?!
THAT'S RIGHT NEXT TO THE ENDACOTT ESTATE!
IT IS?

YOU ARE A DANGEROUS WOMAN, KAY.
LIKE YOU DIDN'T KNOW.
YOU'RE GOOD AT LYING.
HAHA ...
.....
YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE YOUR TRUE SELF WITH YOUR PULLED BACK HAIR AND SUIT BUT
GRAB
I CAN SEE THROUGH YOU...!

NO...
AH...

MM...
HAA...

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO ALNWICK
I'LL COME PICK YOU UP TOMORROW MORNING.
PERFECT TIMING...
WHA...
I DON'T WANT YOU NEAR CHARLES WHILE I'M GONE.
PLUS
WHY!?
That's true...
As long as I could remember, I lived in London. Mother's never talked about where I was born.
THE TRUTH?
YOU WANT TO KNOW TOO, RIGHT?
.....

My roots...
OKAY, LET'S DO THAT.
If this will clear things up...!
Before we left for Alnwick, I shared my mother's belongings and about the odd phone calls and letters I received.
Still, he continued to look at me with suspicion...

Northern England
Alnwick
STOP...!
WE'RE CLOSE TO THE ADDRESS LISTED ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE.
HOW ODD...
IT FEELS LIKE I KNOW THIS PLACE...
...
ALTHOUGH YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
YEAH.. BUT I FEEL IT.
ALTHOUGH YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE IT

ARE YOU THIRSTY?
NO...
WHEN WE...
ATE AT THE DRIVE-IN, YOU ONLY HAD A SALAD AND A COFFEE.
YOU'VE STARED AT MY DONUTS, BUT YOU'VE RESTRAINED YOURSELF.
I REALLY DIDN'T WANT ANY.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE HONEST TO YOURSELF AND FOLLOW YOUR DESIRES.
OH, REALLY.
HOW ABOUT ME?

YOU MUST FEEL THAT THERE'S SOMETHING BETWEEN US TOO
NO!
YOU'RE NOT SPECIAL!
YOU'RE NOT HONEST
STOP IT!
I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME!?
IT'S NOT HATRED
THE REASON WHY I FEAR YOU IS BECAUSE I DON'T WANT MARCIA OR MY FAMILY TO GET HURT.

MY FAMILY HAS WORKED WITH THE ENDACOTT'S FOR GENERATIONS. THEY'RE LIKE FAMILY TO ME
WHEN KIMBERLEY DISAPPEARED HER MOTHER, MARCIA... REALLY EXPERIENCED LIVING HELL..
I SWORE TO PROTECT MARCIA
I INTEND TO KEEP MY PROMISE.
!
What a surprise.
I thought he had no feelings for other people...
He was trying to get rid of me to protect those he loves.
ANY-WAYS, I'M STARTING TO KNOW YOU BETTER..
ONCE WE KNOW THE TRUTH, THIS WILL COME TO AN END.
LET'S GO.

VROOOM
Shut
ALL RIGHT
NO...
THIS IS THE ADDRESS LISTED ON YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION OF IT?
YES?
Click
Knock Knock

UM... I'M TRYING TO TRACE A FAMILY THAT LIVED HERE 24 YEARS AGO.
OH, I'M SORRY
I JUST MOVED HERE TWO YEARS AGO
BUT,
MAYBE ANNIE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.
HUH?
SHE LIVES IN THE HOUSE WITH THE RED DOOR RIGHT OVER THERE
RONNIE AND JEAN NAPIER?
NAPIER...
OH, JEAN PASSED AWAY?

I'VE LIVED HERE FOR A LONG TIME SO I REMEMBER JEAN.
YES, A FEW MONTHS AGO.
THIS IS JEAN WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT 20.
LOOK HERE, A PICTURE OF US TOGETHER.
Mum...
DID YOU KNOW HER VERY WELL?
JEAN - JEAN WOLLASTON - WAS A BRIGHT, GREAT GIRL.
BUT SINCE SHE MET RONNIE NAPIER, SHE EXPERIENCED MANY HARDSHIPS.

HE WAS HANDSOME BUT HE WAS OFTEN INVOLVED IN SHADY BUSINESS
RONNIE WAS AN OUTCAST IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
I NEVER KNEW HIM AT ALL
DON'T WORRY. HE LEFT WHEN I WAS A BABY
OH, I'M SORRY
THAT'S WHEN WE LEFT FOR LONDON..
OH..
POOR JEAN...
BUT I'M GLAD SHE HAD YOU.
I TOLD HER BACK THEN, THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD HEAL HER PAIN WAS ANOTHER CHILD
WHEN JEAN LOST SARAH, SHE WAS IN BAD SHAPE.

Clatter
WHAT?
WHO DID YOU JUST SAY!?
UH... UM.
ISN'T THAT SOME KIND OF MISTAKE?
I AM SARAH. SARAH JANE NAPIER.
KAY WAS A NICKNAME MY MOTHER GAVE ME.

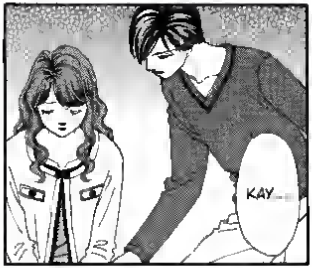
NO, THERE'S NO MISTAKE.
SARAH WAS DARK-HAIRED LIKE HER FATHER.
JEAN LOVED HER VERY MUCH.
POOR SARAH GOT RUN OVER BY A CAR WHEN SHE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD.
NO..
NO WAY..
KAY.
IT'S NOT TRUE...
WHAT HAPPENED?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
JUST SARAH.
JEAN ONLY HAD ONE CHILD WHEN SHE LIVED HERE?
WE WANT TO KNOW THAT TOO.
ANNIE,
PLEASE SAY THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ME!
THERE'S NO WAY!
MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE STATES THAT I WAS BORN HERE.
NO..
KAY, CALM DOWN
LET'S GO
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SHIT...
IT MUST BE A LIE...
I WAS BORN HERE
KAY, LET'S CALM DOWN FIRST.
MY HOUSE IS NEARBY.
GET IN THE CAR.
LET'S GO.
Dizzy
.....

Then...
There was only one child.
Sarah was dark-haired.
The Sarah who was born here died
Who am I?

Click
Knock Knock
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
BRIDIE, THE HOUSEKEEPER, SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT YOU DINNER...
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN?


KAY...

I DON'T WANT ANY...

YOU... MIGHT BE KIMBERLEY.
THAT'S TRUE

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?

STOP! I'M NOT!!
I FOUND AN ARTICLE ON SARAH'S DEATH EARLIER.
BUT THE STORIES MATCH UP.

DOES "KAY" EXIST?

10 MONTHS AFTER SARAH DIED, THREE MONTH OLD KIMBERLEY WENT MISSING.
OH..
NO...
THE DAY THE RANSOM WAS TAKEN THE RUMORED OUTCAST, RONNIE NAPIER, DISAPPEARED.
RONNIE AND JEAN KIDNAPPED KIMBERLEY
NO...!
NO, NO, NO!!
AHH... AHH...

KAY
BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW.
WHO AM I...?
TELL ME, BEN!
YOU ARE...
THE GIRL THAT I DESIRE
AND AM GOING CRAZY FOR.

OH, BEN...!
I WANT
YOU TOO. .!

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR

I LOVE YOU...!
BEN!
BEN,

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
Shock
UH...
UM, I...
.....
DON'T GET ME WRONG...

BEN...?
THIS IS NOT LOVE, JUST LUST.
I DON'T INTEND TO EVER LOVE ANYONE.
SLAM
BEN
The words that came out my mouth
were my true feelings..
What should I do..

The moment I realized this,
I love Ben...
IT'S JUST LUST
No,
I lost him.
he was never mine...

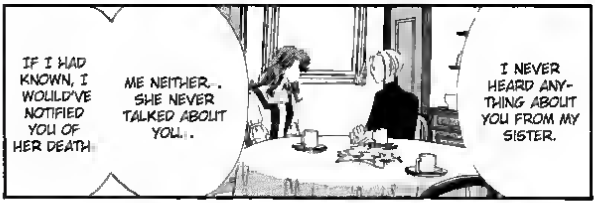
GOOD MORNING.
GOO...
GOOD MORNING.
COME OVER HERE
BREAKFAST IS READY.
YOU LOOK A LITTLE BETTER.
YOU WERE A MESS LAST NIGHT.

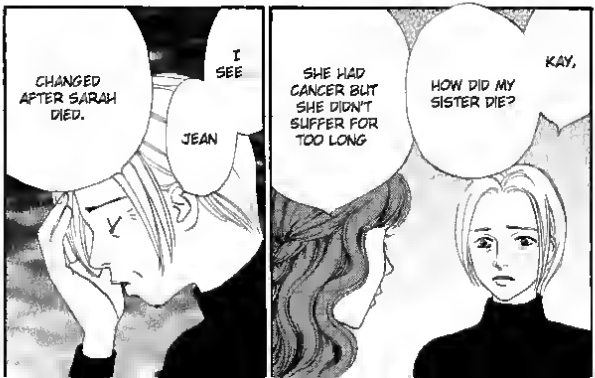
You want to act like...
I KNOW...
it never happened.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
BECAUSE... YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED NOT KNOWING WHO YOU ARE, HAVE YOU?

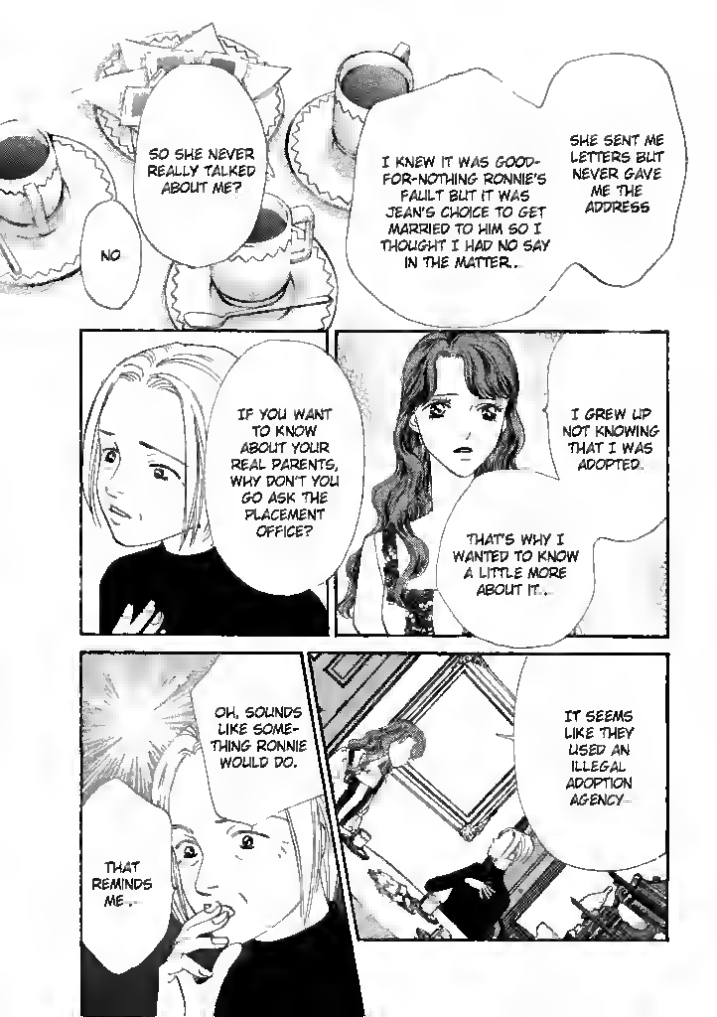
THAT'S TRUE.
I HAVE BEEN MAKING PHONE CALLS TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT FOR YOU THOUGH
I FOUND JEAN'S SISTER, ELIZABETH. SHE'S OLDER THAN YOUR MOTHER BUT NEVER MARRIED.
SHE AGREED TO MEET YOU.
ANNIE MENTIONED YESTERDAY THAT JEAN'S MAIDEN NAME WAS WOLLASTON RIGHT?
I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD FIND HER RELATIVES.
DID YOU FIND ANYONE?

I UNDERSTAND.
IT'LL BE EASIER THAT WAY.
I TOLD HER YOU WERE ADOPTED SO PLEASE JUST GO WITH THE STORY.
LET'S GO AFTER WE EAT.
Mum never told me anything..
Mum...
What did Mum do?!

Just like
Mum..!
YOU'RE JEAN'S ADOPTED CHILD?


IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULD'VE NOTIFIED YOU OF HER DEATH.
ME NEITHER. . SHE NEVER TALKED ABOUT YOU. .
I NEVER HEARD ANY-THING ABOUT YOU FROM MY SISTER.

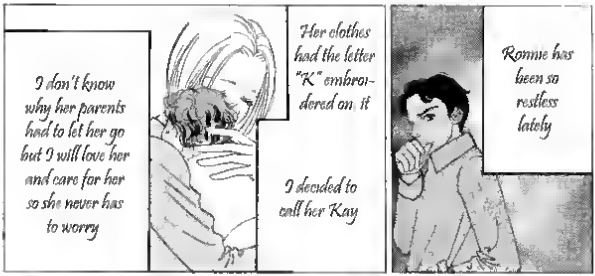

I SEE
JEAN
CHANGED AFTER SARAH DIED.
SHE HAD CANCER BUT SHE DIDN'T SUFFER FOR TOO LONG
KAY,
HOW DID MY SISTER DIE?


SO SHE NEVER REALLY TALKED ABOUT ME?
NO
I KNEW IT WAS GOOD-FOR-NOTHING RONNIE'S FAULT BUT IT WAS JEAN'S CHOICE TO GET MARRIED TO HIM SO I THOUGHT I HAD NO SAY IN THE MATTER..
SHE SENT ME LETTERS BUT NEVER GAVE ME THE ADDRESS
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR REAL PARENTS, WHY DON'T YOU GO ASK THE PLACEMENT OFFICE?
I GREW UP NOT KNOWING THAT I WAS ADOPTED..
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT IT..
OH, SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING RONNIE WOULD DO.
THAT REMINDS ME..
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY USED AN ILLEGAL ADOPTION AGENCY..

I FORGOT ABOUT THAT SUITCASE!
SUIT-CASE?
20 YEARS AGO, JEAN SENT IT FROM LONDON.
IT'S SHOULD STILL BE IN THE GUEST ROOM.
IF SHE PASSED AWAY, THEN IT BELONGS TO YOU NOW, KAY. I HAVEN'T LOOKED INSIDE

A DIARY!
THE SAME ONE I FOUND AT HOME
Close
WHY DON'T I LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE SO YOU CAN READ IT?
I'LL GET YOU SOME TEA.
JEAN ALWAYS LIKED KEEPING A DIARY...
Gulp

I told him I didn't like it, but he told me we'd never get a baby any other way
Ronnie brought home a baby from an illegal adoption agency
Open
I wanted to call her Sarah but Ronnie said it was too dangerous
He wanted me to burn the clothes she came in but it was so lovely, I couldn't.
That's why we're leaving and going south
I decided it to secretly pack it up and send it to Elizabeth


I don't know why her parents had to let her go but I will love her and care for her so she never has to worry
Her clothes had the letter "K" embroidered on it
I decided to call her Kay
Ronnie has been so restless lately

THESE CLOTHES ...
THIS IS ...!?
"K .."
IT'S THE "K" FOR KIMBERLEY

KAY.
THEN YOU REALLY ARE--.
Ring Ring
IT'S RAD-FORD.
WHAT?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
PERFECT TIMING, THANKS.

WHAT HAPPENED?
THE DAY YOU CAME TO THE BANK...
I FOUND A STRAND OF YOUR HAIR IN THE LIFT...
AS A PRECAUTION, I HAD MY FRIEND'S LABORATORY DO A DNA ANALYSIS
I GOT THE RESULTS
THEY SAY THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOU ARE FROM THE ENDACOTT FAMILY
WE NEED TO LET MARCIA KNOW.

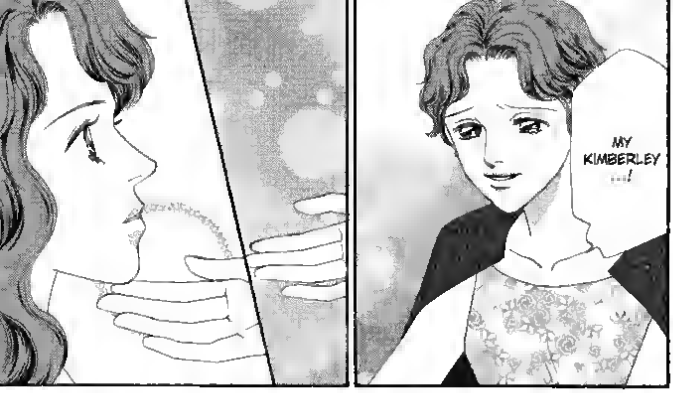
NEVER KAY... EXISTED...
IT WAS...
SIMPLY AN INITIAL...
KAY, ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M KIMBERLEY...
KIMBERLEY ENDACOTT!!
KAY,
LET'S TAKE THE SUITCASE AND GO
...

Vr-o-o-m
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD ELIZA-BETH
THAT SHE WASN'T MY AUNT...
THE TABLOIDS WILL COVER IT
AND SHE WILL EVENTUALLY HEAR ABOUT IT.
IS IT GOING TO BE A BIG DEAL?
THOSE PEOPLE ARE LIKE HYENAS. THE WHOLE WORLD WILL FIND OUT IN NO TIME
THE POLICE WILL SEARCH FOR RONALDO NAPIER
AND PROBABLY FIND THE MEN WHO TRIED TO BLACKMAIL YOU TOO.

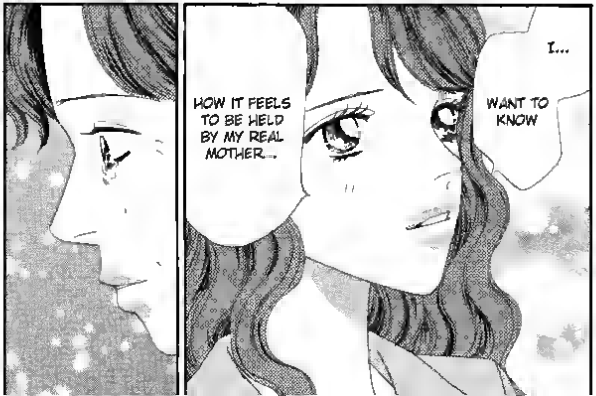
THERE IS NO WAY TO TELL HOW THE JUDGE WILL RULE IN THE COURTROOM. WE HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THAT TOO.
MY POOR MUM...!
AS A KIDNAPPER!?
THEY WILL THINK JEAN WAS PART OF IT EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD NO IDEA!
ARE YOU SURE?
I GUARANTEE IT.
YOU MAY FACE LIBEL, SLANDER, AND ENVY.
BUT YOU WERE ABLE TO CHALLENGE ME YOU SHOULD BE FINE.
.....

This... is the Endacott residence...!!
BEN...!
RIGHT...
THAT'S MARCIA.
YOUR BIRTH MOTHER.

OH... ARE YOU REALLY...
BEN, THIS ISN'T A DREAM, IS IT?
MARCIA,
THIS IS YOUR DAUGHTER, KIMBERLEY
AH...
YOUR HAIR.. YOUR EYES...
THERE'S NO DOUBT
She is my real...
Mother..


MY KIMBERLEY ...!

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME...
OH, I'M SORRY


HOW IT FEELS TO BE HELD BY MY REAL MOTHER...
I... WANT TO KNOW

OH, GOD... THANK YOU.
BEN,
THANK YOU--!
.....

I MIGHT HAVE CALLED YOU THAT TOO.
THEN I SHOULD CALL YOU KAY TOO.
SO YOU'VE BEEN CALLED KAY ALL YOUR LIFE?

THANK YOU MARCIA.
I'M NOT EXPECTING YOU TO CALL ME MUM ALL OF A SUDDEN.
CALL ME MARCIA

YOU SHOULD RECOGNIZE IT...
UM... I FOUND THIS AT MY AUNT'S HOUSE.

I THOUGHT YOU'D OUT-GROW IT QUICKLY..
AH...
AH... YES
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE WEARING WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED..
I'M SORRY... I JUST...
MARCIA...
HUH, BEN!
WE NEED TO HOST A PARTY TO INTRODUCE YOU TO EVERYONE.
I'M HAPPY TO HAVE A NEW SISTER, KAY.
KAY IS NOW JUST LIKE FAMILY.
INDEED. I WILL ORGANIZE IT.

Sister...!
Ben intends to treat me like a sister...!?
OH YES, YOU HAVE A BROTHER AND A SISTER TOO
ALTHOUGH YOUR FATHER ALREADY PASSED AWAY..
I WILL BRING KAY'S BELONGINGS FROM MY HOUSE.
YOU CAN TALK ALL YOU WANT TONIGHT.
I WOULD LIKE TO SIT AND TALK TO YOU AGAIN NEXT TIME
YES

...
KAY,
DO YOU LOVE BEN THAT MUCH?
IT'S NOT...
NO LIM..
.....
IT'S...
POINT-LESS ANY-WAYS.

HE'S A VERY KIND PERSON
I'VE KNOWN BEN SINCE HE WAS BORN.
OH MY...
HE WILL NOT LOVE ANYONE
BEN SAID THAT
KAY...
HE WANTS TO SEE ME AS HIS SISTER.
WHAT?
BEN... LOST HIS FAMILY WHEN HE WAS 18.

BEN'S PARENTS AND HIS BROTHER DIED IN ONE SUCH FIRE
THAT SUMMER... THERE WERE A NUMBER OF LARGE FOREST FIRES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE
THAT YEAR, HIS FAMILY WENT TO SOUTHERN FRANCE FOR A VACATION BUT HE STAYED BEHIND TO STUDY FOR AN IMPORTANT EXAM.
SINCE THEN, HE HAS BEEN AFRAID OF OPENING UP HIS FEELINGS TO ANYONE.
HE WAS HARD HIT BY THE INCIDENT ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THEY WERE SUCH A CLOSE FAMILY.
BEN...
BUT HE FEELS DEARLY ABOUT THE ENDACOTT FAMILY
BUT KAY...
WE ARE CLOSE BUT HE TRIES NOT TO BE TOO INVESTED.
IS LIKE OUR FOSTER CHILD.

MARCIA...
BEN IS STARTING TO CARE FOR YOU.
YOU ARE DIFFERENT, THAT'S WHY HE'S TRYING HARD TO TREAT YOU LIKE A SISTER.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
UNLESS THERE IS A MIRACLE, HE WILL NEVER ALLOW THAT.
KAY.
MIRACLES HAPPEN
WE KNOW THAT VERY WELL.

I'm in love with Ben...
My real father has already passed away. I have a brother, a sister, and a grandfather...
Ben..
I am "Kimberley Endacott".
I wasn't Jean and Ronnie's child.
I have to
to take a chance...!
I'm going to confess my love to him!

LOOK AT HER HAIR... IT'S DEFINITELY THE RED SEEN IN THE ENDACOTT FAMILY.
HOW BEAUTIFUL...
KAY
SIR CHARLES
IT'S LIKE A DREAM THAT YOU ARE KIMBERLEY.
I FELT SOMETHING THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU,
THAT'S WHY I INVITED YOU TO LUNCH.
ABOUT THIS.
HE HAS BEEN BOASTING

OH, BEN ARRIVED
Tell Ben my feelings.
OH BEN, WHO'S THAT?
I'M NITA.
NICE TO MEET YOU, MRS.ENDACOTT.

NITA, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO KIMBERLEY ENDACOTT.
I'VE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU.
I HAVE BEEN CLOSE TO BEN FOR A FEW YEARS NOW.
SHE'S
LIKE FAMILY TO ME.
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, KIMBERLEY.
UM...

I DON'T FEEL
SO GOOD...
EXCUSE ME
.....
She's like family
Ben brought her so that I would give up!

KAY
After that kiss?
A sister?

I'M
WE DATED PREVIOUSLY.
GETTING MARRIED TO NITA.
WHO IS SHE? A COMPANION THAT YOU HIRED?!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?
...!
EVERYONE GATHERED FOR YOU.
THAT ATTITUDE WAS INAPPROPRIATE.

YOU'RE LYING!
I'M SERIOUS.
...
DOES...
THAT... YOU CAN'T LOVE ANYONE?
DOES SHE KNOW?

I
I
LOVE YOU!
I'LL TREAT HER WELL ONCE WE'RE MARRIED.
ARE YOU STILL GOING TO MARRY NITA?

YES
.....
.....
WHA..
I UNDER-STAND...
I WILL NEVER MARRY YOU!

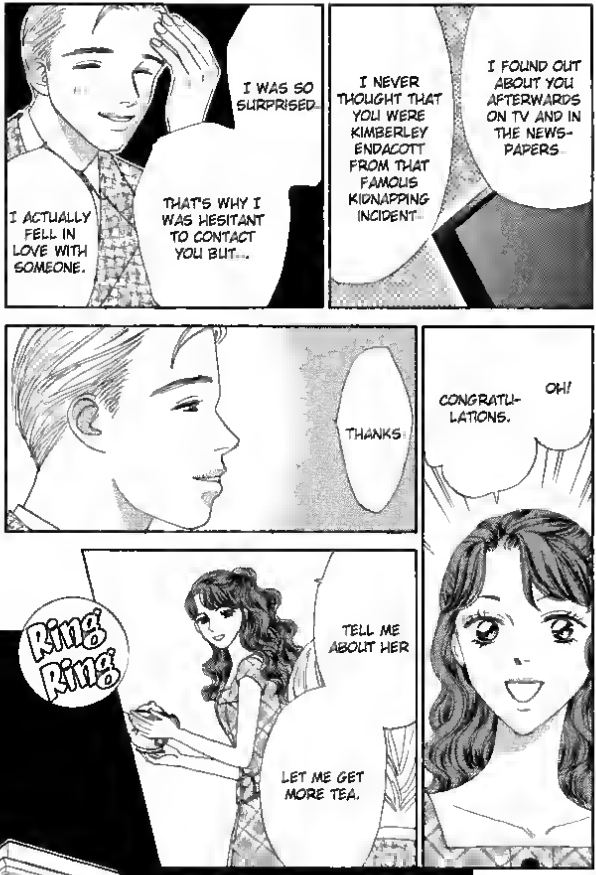
Everthing...
It ended...
Yet, it doesn't compare to this pain...!
I found out who I was.
I got a family and found happiness.
Thanks to the announcement party, the paparazzi withdrew pretty quickly.
I was back to my normal life once again.
One month later
London

HELLO. NAPI... ENDACOTT SPEAKING.
KAY, IT'S ME.
Ring Ring Ring
The culprits of the kidnapping have not yet been caught.
I JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE AT NEXT WEEK'S ENDACOTT DINNER PARTY...
BUT THAT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO CALL YOU.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
SIR CHARLES!
DID..
SOMETHING HAPPEN TO BEN?
N... NO.
Clench
Badump
HAVE YOU TALKED TO BEN RECENTLY?

NON-SENSE! HE HASN'T EVEN LOOKED AT NITA THIS LAST MONTH.
MAR-RIAGE!?
BEN SAID HE WAS GETTING MARRIED TO NITA
OH NO!
CAN YOU PLEASE TELL HIM SOME-THING, KAY?
HE'S GOING TO KILL HIMSELF!
HE HAS BEEN WORKING NON-STOP WITHOUT FOOD OR REST.
CHARLES. IT'S USELESS. HE WON'T LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
WHO WILL HE LISTEN TO IF HE DOESN'T LISTEN TO YOU?
YOU KNOW HE LOVES YOU!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WELL, I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU! NEXT WEEK.
Click
I DON'T KNOW...
EVEN THEN, I DON'T THINK HE'LL LISTEN TO ME...
Ben...
I have been trying to forget him this past month
but I think about him at least 100 times a day.
Didn't you dump me to marry Nita?!
Ding Dong
OH!

LANCE!!
HEY...
click
Ben!?
I'M SORRY.
WHAT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY?
I COULDN'T GET IN CONTACT WITH YOU. REMEMBER, IT WAS RIGHT AFTER WE GOT AWKWARD SO...


I WAS SO SURPRISED.
I ACTUALLY FELL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.
THAT'S WHY I WAS HESITANT TO CONTACT YOU BUT...
I FOUND OUT ABOUT YOU AFTERWARDS ON TV AND IN THE NEWS-PAPERS.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE KIMBERLEY ENDACOTT FROM THAT FAMOUS KIDNAPPING INCIDENT.
OH!
CONGRATU-LATIONS.
THANKS.
TELL ME ABOUT HER
LET ME GET MORE TEA.
Ring! Ring!

HELLO? UM...
THIS IS ENDACOTT.
THANKS...
I'LL GET IT.
WHO ARE YOU?
.....
CLICK
HE HUNG UP...
WHAT HAPPENED?
LANCE?
WHY DON'T YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF FIRST?

WHO WAS IT?
I DON'T KNOW. I THINK IT WAS A WRONG NUMBER.
I'M SORRY FOR VISITING WITHOUT NOTICE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M GLAD WE TALKED.
ME TOO KAY...
I KNOW YOU WERE ALWAYS FORCING YOURSELF WHEN YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH ME.
LANCE...

I WANT YOU TO LIVE YOUR LIFE HONESTLY FROM NOW ON AS KIMBERLEY.
.....
THANKS LANCE.
TAKE CARE
I couldn't allow myself to be free and unrestrained. I was thinking of living peacefully with Lance by giving into him...
I might have lived my life without saying what I wanted and holding everything in...
Close
That's true...
It doesn't differ at all from Ben who will be getting married without any love.

I can't imagine a marriage without love.
Everything changed when I met Ben.
I want Ben...!
There's nothing I want more than him...!!

BANG
BANG
BANG
AHH...
DID YOU FORGET SOME-THING?
Click
WHAT HAPPENED LANCE?
WHA...
BEN...!!

BEN... WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHERE IS HE!!
GET OUT HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LANCE WENT HOME ALREADY. HE JUST CAME TO TALK.
WE BROKE UP!
LANCE IS THE GUY WHO ANSWERED THE PHONE RIGHT?
HE'S A GOLD-DIGGER.
WHAT, YOU BROKE UP?

OH MY GOODNESS BEN...!
YOU LOOK HORRIBLE!
CHARLES SAID YOU'LL COLLAPSE IF YOU DON'T TAKE A BREAK.
I...
I NEED TO PROTECT YOU FROM ALL THE GOLD-DIGGERS.
YOU'RE ...
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T DATE OR MARRY ANYONE?
ARE YOU GOING TO PREVENT ANYONE FROM GETTING CLOSE TO ME?
NO!!
THAT'S PERFECT!

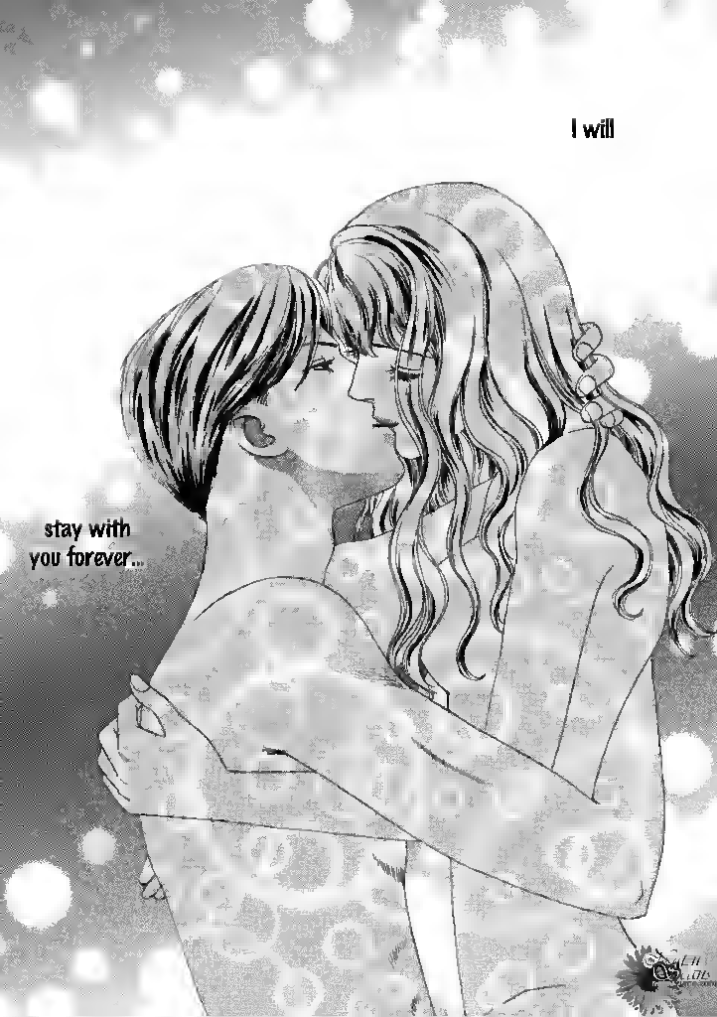
YOU MARRYING ME!
I NEED TO WATCH YOU 24/7 TO PROTECT YOU FROM THE GOLD-DIGGING MEN.
IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I NEED TO GET MARRIED TO YOU.
WHAT..?

TO RESCUE ME FROM GOING CRAZY.
.....
TO PROTECT ME?
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU.
IF IT'S NOT THE SAME FOR YOU, PLEASE TELL ME
BEN
THERE IS ONLY ONE REASON I WILL MARRY YOU..
KAY...

OH BEN...
TELL ME YOU'RE SERIOUS!
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU.
I...
BEN,
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME THAT YOU WILL NEVER MARRY ME.
I KNOW.
I WAS ALWAYS AFRAID OF LOVING ANYONE.
IF I LOST ANYONE AGAIN I THOUGHT I'D NEVER RECOVER.
THIS PAST MONTH, I WAS IN PAIN NO MATTER WHAT I DID
I WORKED LIKE NEVER BEFORE BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING THAT I COULD DIE FOR.
WHEN I CALLED YOU TO HEAR YOUR VOICE, LANCE ANSWERED SO I GOT FURIOUS ...

IT WAS JUST THAT...
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU.
KAY, WILL YOU STAY BY MY SIDE FOREVER?
BEN...!

I promise


I will
stay with
you forever...

IT'S LIKE A DREAM.
HOW DID I LIVE WITHOUT YOU ALL THESE YEARS?
I DON'T KNOW. TELL ME.
OH, KAY.
YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU RIGHT?
OF COURSE.

We both found someone inside ourselves that we've never seen before...
From the moment we met...
EVERYONE KNEW.
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T.
From now on let's be ourselves and flourish with love.
The End

Trail of Love

Amanda Browning/ Mori Motoko

Brought to you by Natsu Scans

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